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No Way To Avoid Criticism

IT WAS HIGH-PRINCIPLED of President Kennedy to assume full responsibility for whatever part the United States Government had in recent unsuccessful efforts to get a rebellion going against the Castro regime in Cuba.

But there cannot be much benefit to the American people in assuming that the Cuban situation in any of its aspects is one for which the United States must take "blame" or "responsibility."

The most disheartening aspect of the Cuban problem from the standpoint of this country is that there is nothing the United States can do or refrain from doing without being criticized both at home and abroad. For those who care to indulge in blaming, there is going to be plenty of opportunity—whatever happens or doesn't happen—to exercise that talent.

At the moment the Central Intelligence Agency is under heavy fire for having gathered false and misleading information in Cuba. Maybe this criticism is justified; not many people are in a position to

know. But the possibility ought to be considered that the situation in Cuba is of a nature allowing little dependable intelligence work. Who is wise or perceptive enough to predict the behavior of a demented man or even of a deeply troubled and perplexed man? How could the C.I.A. or anybody else be expected to say what the Cubans are going to do when, in all probability, the Cubans themselves don't know?

Whatever part the United States may have had in the recent abortive rebellion in Cuba, it could scarcely have been blamed more abroad if it had actually sent its own armed forces to Cuba to overthrow Castro. Even President Kennedy's assumption of responsibility will be quite acceptable evidence to our critics abroad that the United States was fully in charge of the "invasion."

The only right course for the United States to follow, it seems to us, is to do what it conceives to be the right thing, and then let the chips fall where they may.